31. Kammalas and the Public Service.

Mr. K. NARAYANAN ASARI (*Member, Nominated*) stated that in the matter of literacy the Kammala community was very backward and the number of qualified candidates for appointment was inconsiderable. Just as the award of prizes served as an incentive to school children, the appointment of qualified members of educationally backward communities in the Government service and the adequate encouragement of those already in the service would effectively tend to create an enthusiasm for educational advancement. He complained of the indifference of the authorities in the matter of appointing qualified men from his community even though specific cases were repeatedly urged before them. He instanced the cases of N. Kochukunju, teacher, Vernacular Middle School, West Kallada, who had unsuccessfully applied for appointment as Munshi in an English School, of N. Velu Panikar who had passed the Survey Test and had vainly applied for an appointment in the Judicial or Revenue Department, and of N. Gopalan Asari who was qualified in manual training and had applied for a transfer from the Nilakkamukku private school to a departmental school, as deserving special consideration at the hands of the Government. He submitted a list containing the names of certain qualified men of his community for the consideration of the Government.

DEWAN: The member has spoken of the representation of members of his community in the public service. He has cited a number of instances with a view to make out that the claims of the members of his community have not received consideration at the hands of the authorities in the various departments. On looking into particular cases, Government generally find that the complaints that are made are not well founded. At the same time, I may tell him that there are instructions issued to the heads of departments to the effect that, as far as possible, they should give due representation to the several unrepresented communities in their departments. When individual cases come to the notice of Government, they do enquire into them and see that proper action is taken. The investigation that has been recently made in regard to appointments made by Heads of Departments and other officers during the last two years, as I have already said in my address, will show that there has been a fair attempt on the part of the authorities to give due representation to all communities. As I have already said in my address, a scheme for recruitment to the service is under preparation and under it a Staff Selection Board will be established and this Board will take into consideration communal claims in the selection of candidates to the public service.

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28 and 29. Needs of the Ezhava Community.

DEWAN: I will now reply to the representations made by Mr. Kunjukrishnan Vaidyan and Mr. Krishnan Asan yesteday. Mr. Kunjukrishna Vaidyan refers to Ezhavas and Government service, and under Government service he includes salaried as well as honorary offices. In regard to salaried Government offices, I have no other answer to give than the answer which I now gave to Mr. Narayanan Asari. The complaint is there whatever the Government may do. That is why we are considering the formation of a Staff Selection Board for recruitment to the lower ranks of the service and the institution of a competitive examination for entry into the higher ranks. When these two are introduced, I trust that there will be greater satisfaction. Mr. Kunjukrishnan Vaidyan wants an Ezhava in every office and every establishment in the country. I do not know whether that will be possible.

Then, in regard to access to public roads, it is a question about which the position of Government has been fully explained in the course of the discussion on the resolution moved by Mr. Kumaran at the last meeting of the Legislative Council, and I have nothing to add to what was then said. The views of Government are also set forth in my opening address.

Mr. Krishnan Asan wants that, on the Staff Selection Board, there should be some representation of his community. That is a request which will be borne in mind at the time of the constitution of the Board.

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As regards the Ezhava Bill, I quite appreciate the spirit in which Mr. Krishnan Asan made his remarks. There is the legislature which has been given power to frame laws for the country. Ordinarily, it is that body that should enact laws. It is always open to the members of this House like Mr. Asan to educate the electorate and the members of the Council in regard to his own views, convince them of the soundness of his views and impress upon them the volume of the opinion which he voices, and it is always open to any member of the Council to bring forward amendments to the Regulation.

In regard to the representation of the Misradayi portion of the Ezhava community on the Legislative Council, I would point out that there were two members of the Misradaya community on the Legislative Council which has just been dissolved. I do not therefore see any point in Mr. Krishnan Asan's representation. Mr. Paramesvaran was opposed to the provisions of the present Bill. He was a nominated member of the Legislative Council.

Mr. Krishnan Asan also spoke about the representation of Ezhavas in the Popular Assembly. We do nominate more than one representative of the Ezhava community to the Popular Assembly. I believe the usual number of nominations from the community is six. The request now made for nominating from both the sects will be remembered by Government when the nominations are made.

The member spoke of religious education and said that a portion of the Devaswom fund should be diverted for giving religious instruction. It is a very wide subject. Although discussion regarding Devaswoms is not allowed under the rules, the suggestion is one which will be examined by the Government.

The member then urged the necessity for commercial agents in various countries to put the exporters of the produce of this country in direct touch with the merchants of those countries. It is with a view to afford facilities in that direction that Dr. Kunjan Pillai worked when he was present at the Wembley Exhibition. Dr. Kunjan Pillai has received numerous enquiries from merchants in various countries about the produce of this country, and he is in a position to put the exporters of produce from this country in direct touch with merchants of other countries. If the facilities now afforded are taken advantage of, the question of increasing these facilities will be considered by the Government in due course.

Lastly, the member wants that financial facilities should be created for merchants. If he means merchants in the ordinary sense of the term, then such facilities have to be rendered through the agency of banks. It is with a view to increase the existing banking facilities that the Government are sanctioning the constitution of a State-aided Bank. As I said in my address, the rules relating to the bank are ready and it is expected that the bank will come into existence very soon. The extent to which the bank will be useful to the public will depend upon the extent to which the public avail themselves of the opportunities afforded by that institution. Besides this, we have recently introduced the system of granting loans for promoting cottage industries and under these rules also help can be had.

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32. Needs of the Shencottah Taluk.

MR. S. A. HARIHARAKRISHNA IAIYAR (*Member, Shencottah taluk*) prayed that the tank-restoration scheme, particularly as regards the minor tanks of his taluk, should be reconsidered in consultation with the ryots concerned and revised programmes of work drawn up. Some of the improvements carried out under the scheme were inadequate and unsatisfactory. Only some mud work had been done in Mulakkamkulam in the Samburvadakara *pakuthi*; frequent breaches occurred as the surplus weir of the Pambadikulam in the Ayikudi village was too narrow for the discharge during flood time; the supply channel to the Minapuri tank at Elattur needed repairs; water was leaking from the new sluice provided for the Peramaneri tank at Shencottah; and temporary work was done annually on the bank adjoining the Pambili anicut, while a masonry protection would be much cheaper.

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